

CLAIMS:

1 1. A tibial sizer for use during knee arthroplasty, said tibial
2 sizer comprising:

3 a head;

4 a handle extending outwardly from said head;

5 a channel extending along said tibial sizer in a longitudinal
6 direction, through at least a portion of said head and at least a portion of said
7 handle; and

8 a slider configured and arranged to be slidably positioned within
9 said channel.

1 2. The tibial sizer as defined in Claim 1, wherein said head
2 includes posterior, lateral and medial outer peripheral surfaces, and further
3 wherein said posterior outer peripheral surface is generally flat, and one of said
4 lateral outer peripheral surface or said medial outer peripheral surface is curved
5 and the other of said lateral outer peripheral surface and said medial outer
6 peripheral surface is generally flat.

1 3. The tibial sizer according to Claim 1, wherein said head
2 includes posterior, lateral and medial outer peripheral surfaces, and further
3 wherein said posterior outer peripheral surface is generally flat, and one of said
4 lateral outer peripheral surface or said medial outer peripheral surface is curved
5 and the other of said lateral outer peripheral surface and said medial outer
6 peripheral surface is generally flat and includes a cutout portion therein.

1 4. The tibial sizer as defined in Claim 1, wherein said head
2 includes posterior, lateral and medial outer peripheral surfaces that are shaped
3 to generally correspond to posterior, lateral and medial outer peripheral

4 surfaces, respectively, of a tibial base plate of a unicompartmental knee
5 prosthesis.

1 5. The tibial sizer as defined in Claim 4, wherein either said
2 lateral outer peripheral surface or said medial outer peripheral surface includes
3 a generally flat surface with a cutout portion therein.

1 6. The tibial sizer as defined in Claim 1, wherein said slider
2 includes a hook portion at one end thereof for making contact with a posterior
3 proximal portion of a tibia.

1 7. The tibial sizer as defined in Claim 1, wherein said slider
2 includes at least one set of markings thereon for indicating the amount of
3 exposed bone between a posterior proximal portion of a tibia and a posterior
4 edge of said head of said tibial sizer.

1 8. The tibial sizer as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a first set of markings for indicating the amount of exposed bone
3 between a posterior proximal portion of a tibia and a posterior edge of said
4 head of said tibial sizer; and
5 a second set of markings for indicating a suggested size of tibial
6 base plate with respect to an anterior/posterior direction.

1 9. The tibial sizer as defined in Claim 8, wherein said first set
2 of markings are located on said slider, and provide said indication of exposed
3 bone amount when viewed with respect to a terminal edge of said handle.

1 10. The tibial sizer as defined in Claim 8, wherein said second
2 set of markings are located on both said slider and said handle.

1 11. The tibial sizer as defined in Claim 10, wherein said
2 second set of markings comprise:

3 indicia on said handle representing different sizes of tibial base
4 plates; and

5 a pointer on said slider for pointing to the indicia on said handle
6 to indicate a suggested size of tibial base plate with respect to the
7 anterior/posterior direction.

1 12. The tibial sizer as defined in Claim 8, further comprising a
2 third set of markings, wherein said third set of markings comprise indicia on
3 said slider representing different sizes of tibial base plates, wherein said third
4 set of markings are not visible when said slider is inserted within said channel
5 of said handle, but said third set of markings are visible when said slider is used
6 without said handle, whereby said slider may be used for determining a
7 suggested size of tibial base plate, with respect to the anterior/posterior
8 direction, without said slider being inserted into said channel.

1 13. The tibial sizer as defined in Claim 11 wherein:

2 said handle includes a first surface on one side thereof and a
3 second surface on an opposite side thereof; and

4 further wherein said second set of markings are visible when
5 viewing both said first surface and said second surface.

1 14. A method of using a tibial sizer to aid in selecting an
2 appropriately sized tibial base plate, the method comprising the steps of:

3 estimating the appropriate size of tibial base plate;

4 selecting a tibial sizer of a size that corresponds to a tibial base
5 plate of the estimated size;

placing the selected tibial sizer on a cut surface of a resected tibia so that a generally flat outer peripheral surface of a head of the tibial sizer is against a surface created by a sagittal cut;

verifying that the outer periphery of the head sufficiently covers the resected tibia, without extending beyond cortical bone of the tibia;

if the outer periphery of the head does not provide appropriate coverage, selecting another tibial sizer of a different size and performing said verifying step again;

after completing said verifying step, sliding a slider within a channel in said tibial sizer so that a hook found on a slider contacts a posterior edge of the tibia;

viewing a first set of markings that indicate the amount of exposed bone between a posterior proximal portion of a tibia and a posterior edge of said head of said tibial sizer;

viewing a second set of markings that indicate a suggested size of tibial base plate with respect to an anterior/posterior direction; and

selecting an appropriately sized tibial base plate based on information obtained during said verifying step and said viewing steps.

15. The method as defined in claim 14, further comprising the step of:

using a cutout portion on the head of said tibial sizer as a guide for marking a desired location of a cut to accept a keel of a tibial implant.

16. The method as defined in claim 14, further comprising the step of:

using a cutout portion on the head of said tibial sizer as a guide for creating a cut to accept a keel of a tibial implant.

1 17. A system of tibial sizers for use during knee arthroplasty,
2 said system comprising:

3 a plurality of differently sized tibial sizers, wherein each tibial
4 sizer includes:

5 a head;

6 a handle extending outwardly from said head; and

7 a channel extending along said tibial sizer in a longitudinal
8 direction, through at least a portion of said head and at least a portion of said
9 handle; and

10 a slider configured and arranged to be slidably positioned within
11 each of said channels of said plurality of differently sized tibial sizers.

1 18. The system of tibial sizers as defined in Claim 17, wherein
2 each of said heads includes posterior, lateral and medial outer peripheral
3 surfaces, and further wherein said posterior outer peripheral surface is generally
4 flat, and one of said lateral outer peripheral surface or said medial outer
5 peripheral surface is curved and the other of said lateral outer peripheral surface
6 and said medial outer peripheral surface is generally flat.

1 19. The system of tibial sizers as defined in Claim 17, wherein
2 each of said tibial sizers includes:

3 a first set of markings for indicating the amount of exposed bone
4 between a posterior proximal portion of a tibia and a posterior edge of said
5 head of said tibial sizer;

6 a second set of markings for indicating a suggested size of tibial
7 base plate with respect to an anterior/posterior direction; and

8 a third set of markings, wherein said third set of markings include
9 indicia on said slider representing different sizes of tibial base plates, wherein
10 said third set of markings are not visible when said slider is inserted within
11 said channel of said handle, but said third set of markings are visible when said

12 slider is used without said handle, whereby said slider may be used for
13 determining a suggested size of tibial base plate, with respect to the
14 anterior/posterior direction, without inserting said slider into one of said
15 channels.